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little encouragement in Tel Aviv.

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FEDAYEEN-LEBANON-ISRAEL: Commando raids

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ISRAEL: PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS OF THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING POSITION SUGGEST THAT UN-MEDIATOR JARRING IS BEING GIVEN LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT IN TEL AVIV.

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[REDACTED] A MEMORANDUM GIVEN AMBASSADOR BARBOUR BY FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN ON WEDNESDAY, MAKES IT CLEAR NOT ONLY THAT ISRAEL ADHERES FIRMLY TO ALL ITS PREVIOUS POSITIONS REGARDING A SETTLEMENT, BUT THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT WILLING TO ENTER SERIOUS TALKS ON SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS UNLESS THE EGYPTIANS STOP CREATING AN "ULTIMATIVE SITUATION"--I.E., STOP THREATENING NOT TO RENEW THE CEASE-FIRE AFTER 5 FEBRUARY. EBAN EVEN SAID HE WAS CONSIDERING TELLING JARRING THAT A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE CEASE-FIRE IS A CONDITION FOR ISRAEL'S ENTERING TALKS.

THE ISRAELI MEMORANDUM STATES FLATLY THAT NO ISRAELI TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM ANY POSITION PENDING AN OVER-ALL SETTLEMENT, THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT RETURN TO ITS PRE - JUNE 1967 BOUNDARIES, AND THAT A UNIFIED JERUSALEM WILL "OF COURSE" REMAIN THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL, THOUGH WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE "SPIRITUAL" INTERESTS OF OTHERS.

IF PRIME MINISTER MEIR TAKES A LINE AS BLUNTLY TOUGH AS THIS IN HER TALKS WITH JARRING, THE MEDIATOR WILL RETURN TO NEW YORK IN EFFECT WORSE THAN EMPTY-HANDED. BARRING SOME UNFORESEEN BREAK IN THE SITUATION, SUCH A DEVELOPMENT ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD CAUSE THE EGYPTIANS SERIOUSLY TO CONSIDER CALLING FOR A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE EXPIRES.

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NOTES

FEDAYEEN-LEBANON-ISRAEL: FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY ALONG THE LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER IS LIKELY TO INCREASE AS THE COMMANDOS ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE JARRING NEGOTIATIONS.

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ISRAEL HAS COMPLAINED TO THE US AMBASSADOR IN TEL AVIV THAT TENSION IS ALREADY BUILDING UP ALONG THE BORDER AS FEDAYEEN FROM JORDAN MOVE INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON.

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THE SEPARATE EFFORTS OF THE LEBANESE AND ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES ARE MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO KEEP ANY NEW ACTIVITY IN CHECK. MOREOVER, THE WEAKENED STATE OF THE COMMANDO MOVEMENT RENDERS IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT IT CAN MOUNT ANY SIGNIFICANT CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS.

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